



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

DRAFT MINUTES
NCLIS CONFERENCE CALL
December 1, 1994
11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Commissioners Participating in Conference Call:

Daniel Casey; Carol DiPrete; Martha Gould; Norman Kelson; Frank Lucchino; Kay Riddle; Bobby Roberts; Gary Sudduth; Winston Tabb; Barbara Taylor; Joel Valdez (11:00 - 11:30 a.m.); Robert Willard, and Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson

Commissioners Unable to Participate in Conference Call:

Shirley Adamovich; and Elinor Swaim

Staff Participating in Conference Call:

Peter R. Young; Mary Alice Hedge; Jane Williams; John Lorenz; Kim Miller; and Barbara Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

Martha Gould Named Vice Chairman

Chairperson Simon announced her designation of Commissioner Martha Gould as NCLIS Vice Chairman.

Impact of Recent National, State, and Local Election Results on the Commission's Plans and Program Activities

The Members reviewed and discussed possible appointments of Senate and House Committee Chairs of the 104th Congress. Commissioners noted individual Senators and Congressmen who they personally know as "libraries and information services supporters." The overall feeling was that the Commission needs to develop a close working relationship with the Members of the 104th Congress.

Commissioner Lucchino stated that that morning he read in his local paper that the Postal Rate Commission has increased the library postage rate by 73 percent (from \$1.19 to \$1.96). He expressed his personal disappointment calling the increase, "catastrophic for libraries and publishers." Commissioner Roberts expressed his concern that the increase forces user charges and that the increased costs would have to come from the pockets of the smaller and rural libraries. Commissioner Willard stated, "It would be for the social good for Congress to give the money to the Post Office rather than take it from the libraries."

The Commissioners expressed concern that the increase came as a surprise. If they had known beforehand perhaps they could have exerted their influence. The need for more legislative information and alerts was expressed. Commissioner DiPrete noted that ALAWON (ALA's online legislative update) can be accessed through Internet for relevant legislative alerts and updates. In addition, Mr. Young reminded Commissioners that the monthly ALA Newsletter is copied and sent upon issue.

Chairperson Simon requested that staff provide Commissioners with a list of the members of the Postal Rate Commission and background information before January 1995. In addition, this topic will be included on the February 23-24, 1995, NCLIS meeting agenda.

At the time of the conference call, Commissioner Valdez had not received the agenda. He stated that mail is unusually slow from Washington, DC to Phoenix, AZ. Starting now urgent mail addressed to Commissioner Valdez will be faxed or sent by Federal Express.

The Commission agreed to schedule a conference call for mid-January 1995. Staff will poll Commissioners to determine best date and time.

Plans for Future NCLIS Activities, Meetings, etc.

Project on Costs of Internet Connectivity for Libraries

Mr. Young prepared and distributed a project proposal to assess the economic impact of library involvement with the NII, including the identification of cost factors and the +development of cost models related to libraries connecting to the Internet/NII.

Mr. Young discussed specific approaches to accomplish the study project. Commissioners urged the comprehensive study include all types of libraries and not be limited to public libraries. Commissioner Roberts expressed concern about the model being used stating, "If you look only at the costs in connecting the public sector, you cannot get a good balance. Regulators must also be included in the project."

MOTION

Moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Barbara Taylor, that the Executive Director will refine and expand the study concept beyond public libraries and report back with specific detailed project proposal, timeliness, and cost estimates.

The motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion of the study project will be included on the agenda for the January conference call.

Plans for the LSCA Task Force Meeting

It was reported that Vice Chairperson Gould will represent NCLIS at the next meeting of the LSCA Task Force on January 5-6, 1995, in Washington, DC. (Commissioner Roberts will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment.) In addition, NCLIS staff will attend a 13-14 December 1994 working meeting of the LSCA Task Force in Washington, DC. Mr. Young noted that the Commission is very concerned about these critical meetings and that the Commission needs to be kept closely informed of LSCA Reauthorization plans for the 104th Congress.

Status of Presidential Appointments to NCLIS

Chairperson Simon expressed her hope that paperwork for the two new appointees (replacements for Elinor Swaim and Daniel Casey) could be completed in time for the President to announce their appointments prior to the NCLIS February meeting.

NCLIS Meetings

The second NCLIS meeting of FY 1995 will be held on February 23 and 24, 1995, in Annapolis, Maryland. At this point in time, all Commissioners are planning to attend.

In addition, NCLIS will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the American Association of Law Libraries' (AALL) National Conference on Legal Information Issues, July 15-18, 1995. The exact dates for the NCLIS meeting have not been set, pending Commission Willard's discussion with AALL. Commissioner DiPrete will not be able to attend the July meeting.

The Commission will decide at its meeting in February about additional NCLIS meetings in 1995.

Plans for Celebrating NCLIS' 25th Anniversary Year

Chairperson Simon established an Ad Hoc Committee on NCLIS' 25th Anniversary. The Committee is charged with developing a plan of action (including appropriate recognition awards) for celebrating the 25th anniversary of NCLIS. NCLIS was established by Public Law 91-345 on July 19, 1970.

Members agreeing to serve on the ad hoc committee are:

Barbara Taylor, Chair
Kay Riddle
Bobby Roberts
Gary Sudduth

The committee will provide an update during the January conference call.

Status Reports on Items Discussed at the October 1994 NCLIS Meeting

NCLIS and ALA Cosponsorship of a Pre-White House Conference for Older Adults

Ms. Hedge reported that, as requested, staff obtained approval from the Department of Education's general counsel for NCLIS to contribute in the amount of \$5,500 for cosponsoring a National Pre-White Conference for Older Adults with the American Library Association (ALA). The National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS/BPH) is contributing a like amount for follow up to the one-day event. NLS plans to provide an exhibit with hands-on capability for seniors attending the Conference. Press releases will be issued from NCLIS, NLS/BPH, and LC.

The preconference will be held in Philadelphia, 3 February 1995. Participants in "Toward the White House Conference on Aging: Priorities and Policies for Library and Information Services for Older Adults" will develop recommendations on major agenda topics for the May 1985 National WHC. Invited speakers include U.S. Rep. Major Owens (D-NY); Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Grey Panthers; Hugh Downs, host of ABC TV's 20/20; and U.S. Senator David Pryor (D-AR), chair of the Conference. Allan Kleiman, chief of services to the aging at the Brooklyn Public Library, NY, is chair of the preconference. Bessie Boehm Moore, NCLIS Vice Chairman Emeritus, is one of two honorary chairs.

The word "libraries" does not appear on the conference's agenda, however, Elizabeth Martinez is trying to correct this omission by writing to Robert Blancato, WHCoA Executive Director. Copies of the agenda will be sent to all Commissioners for review and comment. Commissioners were requested to recommend individuals to be invited to the preconference.

NCLIS Internet Connections and Computers for Commissioners

Commissioner Lucchino expressed strong support for the NCLIS Internet connection and the use of electronic mail (E-mail). Those Commissioners without computers will receive their computers as soon as possible. One unanswered question remains how best to arrange for maintenance. Time for computer training will be included on the February meeting agenda.

Possible Foundation Support for NCLIS Projects

Commissioner Lucchino suggested that staff pursue the possibility of foundation grants and further suggested drafting specific project proposals. Further discussion of this topic will be included on the February meeting agenda.

The U.S. Postal Service's Service (USPS) to the Citizen Kiosk Pilot Program

Mr. Young reported that an RFP has been issued for the design and development of the first 112 Kiosks. The project is funded solely by the USPS. This is a test phase, with 20 Kiosks in different types of sites in five states, depending on support from the state and local government. Twelve of the sites are in the Washington, DC area. It is expected that some of the Kiosks will be in libraries, but a number of other locations will be tried as well.

The services to be provided will be primarily via a touch screen: Federal jobs hotline; making park reservations; Veteran Administration benefits; checking on Social Security; and other state and local government information, yet to be determined. An evaluation component will be included to determine what services are of most interest to what groups via which sites and how successful the technology works.

Vice Chairperson Gould stated that this is the perfect opportunity for interagency partnerships. Commissioner Roberts stated that libraries need to be in the position to compete with the private sector for the NII.

NCLIS FY 1996 Budget

The OMB's pass-back figure for NCLIS FY 1996 is \$962,000, an increase of \$59,000 appropriated for FY 1995. Mr. Young stated that he is optimistic about future NCLIS funding.

U.S. Libraries Statistical Abstract

Commissioner DiPrete talked with ALA's Public Information Office and learned that ALA is in the process of printing their statistical pocket guide, which they will gladly provide to NCLIS. Mr. Lorenz offered to review the statistical guide when available and relate it to the Commission's objectives. Time for discussion will be included on the February meeting agenda.

Analysis of WHCLIS 1979 and 1991 Recommendations

Ms. Williams prepared an outline for analyzing the WHCLIS 1979 and 1991 recommendations. Staff work will proceed on the concept document, including recommendations on how best to approach the large task of analysis and cost factors. Further discussion will be included on the February meeting agenda.

Executive Summaries of NCLIS September Briefings and October Hearing

The Commissioners approved the executive summaries of the NCLIS briefing, September 21-22, 1994, and the hearing held October 26, 1994.

NCLIS Meeting/Hearing, October 25-27, 1994

In response to Vice Chairperson Gould, Mr. Young stated that he is reviewing the draft minutes of the October 25-27, 1994 meeting and hearing. The draft minutes will be sent to Commissioners for their review and comment within the next few days.

NCLIS Contract Staff Status

Ms. Hedge reported that as requested at the October 27, 1994, NCLIS meeting, she has been working with the Department of Education's (ED) Personnel Office to prepare the necessary paperwork to change Kim Miller, Mimie Rutledge, and Barbara Whiteleather from contract to government employees effective December 12, 1994. These individuals have been working under contract to NCLIS and/or the Library Statistics Program for almost five years and as such are not receiving benefits, i.e., periodic increases in salary,

earned leave, paid holidays, insurance, hospitalization, or credit for service toward retirement.

The Commissioners expressed concern regarding: (1) the Fair Labor Standards Act; and (2) liability regarding IRS and Social Security payments. Concern was also expressed over the fact that these individuals have been working for so long without personal benefits. Commissioner Taylor suggested the possibility of credit for retirement and retroactive benefits.

Ms. Hedge presented two options for accomplishing what the Commission requested. The first is through normal competitive procedures, which is a lengthy and complex personnel process. The second option was to use NCLIS' public law which states, "The Commission is authorized to appoint, without regard to the provisions of title 5, U.S. Code, covering appointments in the competitive service, such professional and technical personnel as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its function under this Act." Ms. Hedge noted that the White House Conference staff was hired under this provision in the public law in Administratively Determined (AD) positions. She has been informed by ED Personnel that the only benefits that AD position do not receive are across the board and automatic step increases. However, with a letter from the NCLIS Chairperson to the ED these increases are granted.

Ms. Hedge has consulted about draft position descriptions for the three individuals with ED's Personnel Office. The Request for Personnel Action (SF-52) have been prepared under the direction of the Personnel Office and are ready for the Chairperson's signature, if the Commission approves. It was noted that the spending plan submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval would have to be adjusted, in addition to other administrative procedures and steps.

In response to Commissioner Roberts' question, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Rutledge, and Mrs. Whiteleather indicated their desire to change from contract status to AD service status.

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Barbara Taylor, that Kim Miller, Mimie Rutledge, and Barbara Whiteleather be hired as full-time employees under AD appointments effective December 12, 1994. When increases are due, a letter will automatically be sent from the NCLIS Chairperson requesting same. Further, the staff is directed to determine if credit for past service, annual and sick leave, and/or buy-back provisions are possible.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Budget Status Reports

Vice Chairman Gould stated that to better understand the budget process, she wants staff to provide monthly budget status reports with line items itemizing actual dollars, expended and unexpended.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Simon reported that she recently spoke at following symposium and conferences:

- 13 October 1994. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Symposium. Title of speech: *From the University to the Consumer: Putting Knowledge to Work for Business, Government, and the Public.*
- 29 October 1994. Southeastern Library Association Conference, Southern Libraries at the Crossroads. Title of speech: *The National Commission and the Information Superhighway.*
- 27 October 1994. Nevada Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association, Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Title of speech: *Libraries: The Peak Experience!*
- 2 November 1994. Texas System Leadership Conference, Austin, Texas. Title of speech: *The National Commission, Library, Advocates, and the Information Superhighway.*

January Conference Call Topics

- Project on Costs of Internet Connectivity for Libraries
- Report, Ad Hoc Committee on NCLIS 25th Anniversary

February Agenda Topics

- Implementation of legislation passed by the Congress
(Suggested by Commissioner Casey)
- Future NCLIS meeting dates
- Computer training
- Foundation support
- NCLIS statistical pocket guide
- Analysis of WHCLIS 1979 and 1991 Recommendations

The conference call concluded at 12:45 p.m.